Sandra Schmid
Chadds Ford, PA

Responding to Long Term Unemployed

My name is Sandra Schmid. I am 50 years old, and I lost my job in April of 2009. Since April, I have been doing everything I know to find work. Resume updated, scour the job boards and newspapers. Contact headhunters, and interview with them, hoping they may have something for me.

Networking, both on the web, and in person. I have a BS degree and 20+ years experience in the accounting field. I have applied to accounting jobs, bookkeeping jobs, and Administrative Assistant jobs. I have applied to jobs paying 29% less than the job I lost, only to not even get an interview.   I am a single mom, with an 11 year old son. I am now on Tier 2, with four weeks to go. If unemployment benefits are not extended, how I am supposed to pay my mortgage, keep my lights on, and feed my 11 year old son? I feel that I am on the brink of losing everything I have worked for my whole life.

I have heard some politicians saying that unemployment is keeping the unemployed lazy because they are not taking jobs to continue to collect benefits. (I have applied to jobs that would have me take a 29% pay cut!) I want a job, I need a job, but jobs are few and far between. I fear for the future of this country, if you are willing to let 10% of the population fall into poverty because of the actions of some greedy people on Wall Street who drove our economy off the cliff. Please do not abandon the unemployed in our time of need.

 I understand that the deficit is a concern, but please do not right off 10% of the population. I have read that 49% of the unemployed have been out of work for 6 months or more. I have heard of companies who are not even considering applicants who are currently unemployed. I have been told by hiring managers that for each position advertised, they have 100-200 candidates to choose from. Do the math, if companies have 100-200 candidates to choose from, and do not wish to hire the currently unemployed, what chance to the long term unemployed have?

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